

THE MILTON FIRE.

Disaster without precedent in Pennsylvania.

STORY OF THE GREAT FIRE OF FRIDAY—LIST OF THE SUFFERERS AND THE LOSSES THEY HAVE SUSTAINED—THE STIRRING SCENES AND INCIDENTS OF SATURDAY AND YESTERDAY.

From the Philadelphia Press. MILTON, May 16.—The fire of Friday was the largest and most destructive that has ever taken place in the United States in proportion to the area covered by the flames and the material it had to work upon. It started at 11:45 A. M. and in twenty minutes it was beyond control, the wind having carried sparks and set the town ablaze in a dozen places. In three hours the whole of the business portion of Milton was in ruins. Nine tenths of the borough was destroyed, nineteen twentieths of the capital was wiped out. The origin of the fire is supposed to be a workman in Murray, Douglas & Co.'s car-shop in the north end of town noticed the roof on fire. There was some delay in getting to the flames, and when they were reached it was impossible to smother the blaze. A strong wind from the north-east fed the fire, and in a few moments the fire-fighting roof was a sheet of flame. It burned fiercely as the winds roared down the flats. Instead of trying to extinguish the flames the 450 hands of the car-shops were compelled to

RUN FOR THEIR LIVES.

The cry of fire resounded over the town, but few people got outside of their homes. In five minutes from the time the flames were discovered it had leaped two hundred feet to Front and Upper Market streets, and the houses and business places in that vicinity were soon blazing. The wind now blew a hurricane, and the flames were terrible to hear, the roar of burning wood through the air like meteors, and fired the church-steeple and the corners of buildings. Men on their way to the scene of destruction found fire all around them, and each hurried to his home. Many of them found their houses blazing, and they were obliged to take to the streets for safety. At 12:30 a dozen or twenty large fires raged in that part of town between Broadway and west of the canal. The progress of the flames can be imagined when I say that several merchants were compelled to leave their stores without getting the cash out of the money-drawers. Mrs. Mary Rhodes would have burned up in Walnut street if her brother had not saved her. She escaped with severe burns about the head. In Mahoning street, a mile from the car-shop, John P. Summers was surrounded by flames, trying to save some personal property, and

ESCAPED WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY.

He is eighty years old, and a very infirm man. Mrs. Isaac Sticker was helped from a second-story window, and such is her condition from fright that her life is still despaired of last evening. A large number of pigs, chickens, dogs, cats, and other animals and fowls, were burned to death in the streets. In the rear of the Hotel Hamilton, George Angell, an aged man, was found. His body was very hot, as is evidenced by the fact that numbers of animals are lying crisp in the gardens with their noses to the ground, as if in their agony they endeavored to bury themselves.

The fire continued to grow with frightful rapidity. The saving of houses was no longer to be thought of. To snatch an article of clothing or gather up some trinkets was the most that could be done. Mrs. Jordan, wife of late Cashier Jordan, did not have time to save her Government bonds, and \$6,000 in coupon and \$2,000 registered were destroyed. Matthias Bucher, an hotel porter, got his trunk down stairs in the yard. He had

A LARGE SUM OF MONEY.

and he hurriedly buried it in a manure-pile. He had hardly done so when the flames drove him away. When the fire was over he came back to find his money on fire, but he was able to save the most of it. Thomas Johnson, a guest at the Hotel Hamilton, and clerk for the popular firm of Godecharles & Brothers, lost all his clothes, a gold watch, and the furniture in his room, and some valuable trinkets, including a handsome marmoset pipe, Mrs. Huff and some other ladies and children who were at the hotel had not Daniel Fisher saved them. He and his family simply saved that they had on their backs. Ensnawled by the flames, and loan association, had \$350 cash belonging to the association, which was burned up. He got \$75 of the burned money, which happened to be in silver. His furniture and house was destroyed, and he was

GLAD TO SAVE HIS CHILDREN.

He and his family had nothing in the world but what they had on.

In Milton proper it is thought there were 700 buildings of all kinds standing on Friday morning; now it would be hard to count buildings out of a possible 700. Of these buildings about 123 were churches, stores, dwellings, and large structures; the others were stables, ice-houses, and other out-buildings. In the business streets not a place occupied as a store was left standing. Indeed, the only stores in town are a drug store at Water and Mahoning streets, and a little grocery in the same neighborhood. The public buildings suffered in the same way.

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC WAS BURNED.

Every church in town, except a one-story structure, sometimes used by the Episcopalians, and a little shanty belonging to the negroes, was destroyed, with all their contents. Not a Bible or a book was saved belonging to a church, and the same was true of the church edifices. Of the manufactories, everything was destroyed except the Milton Rolling Mill, Godecharles Bros., nail mills, one-fourth of the car works, two grist mills and the fly-factory. Every hotel and saloon in the town was destroyed except the Grand Central, a little wood-frame, and the Philadelphia and Erie depot east of the railroad. There is no place to buy food; it would be impossible to buy a chew of tobacco or any article of convenience or use within the limits of Milton borough.

The fire covered about three hundred and fifty acres, according to estimates. Only one school-house is standing. There were five on Friday. Four or five bridges were burned. An enumeration of what was not burned would be an easy matter compared with what was destroyed.

THE VIEW FROM THE HIGH GROUND

In the northeastern part of the town gives the best idea of the disaster. Looking west and south, there is nothing to be seen but a few standing walls. There is absolutely no town left to be seen. As far as the eye can reach there is no habitable building. One is reminded of Chambersburg, or Columbia, S. C., Charleston, or Atlanta; but in neither of these places—indeed, the writer saw all of them—the destruction so thorough as in Milton. There is no relief from the utter waste everywhere.

I think the number of people rendered homeless would not exceed 2,000, and this number was largely reduced by many of the hurrying away to Williamsport, Sunbury, Northumberland, Danville, the county, wherever they had friends. Notwithstanding many persons went to bed on Friday

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE NASHVILLE CELEBRATION—SUSPENSION OF GRAIN MERCHANTS IN BOSTON—CALIFORNIA WORKINGMEN'S CONVENTION—CONGRESSIONAL NEWS AND NOTES—FORD COUNTY, ILL., REPUBLICAN CONVENTION—WASHINGTON RACES—METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE AT CINCINNATI—DEATH OF MR. CHAUNCEY BROOKS, OF BALTIMORE—TWO MORE LARGE FIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA—AFFAIRS IN FRANCE—YELLOW-FEVER IN HAVANA—SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE IRISH PARLIAMENTARY PARTY, &c., &c.

Washington. THE SENATE PENDING FOR ADJOURNMENT ON THE 21ST—WORK OF THE COMMITTEES.

Washington, May 18, 1880.

TO-DAY WILL DECIDE.

The Interest in the Great Race Momentarily Increasing.

A CIRCULAR FROM REFEREE BLAIR—HANLAN STILL AROUND IN THE POOLS—FINAL ARRANGEMENTS NEARLY COMPLETED.

[From the Washington Post, yesterday.]

The boat-race which is to come off to-morrow (to-day), unless some unforeseen accident interferes, excites more interest than did any other presidential inauguration, or other national event, which this country has seen. It is the electric of conversation everywhere, and the headquarters of the cars-men were last night lively in the extreme.

Again in the pools Hanlan was the favorite, the betting being \$100 to \$200 and \$100 to \$75. In New York it was understood that Courtney led in the betting, but this did not seem to have any influence against Hanlan. Large numbers of Canadian people have already arrived and are backing their man earnestly. Courtney's friends will bet on the Cook county boat from Union Springs, and until the moment of the race the excitement will increase. Both men yesterday

TOOK THEIR USUAL PULLS.

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